

I am writing to urge you to please PAUSE 16-421 – the move to expedite new wireless infrastructure.

5G is a plan that necessitates a massive nationwide build-up of transmitters (i.e. cell towers). 5G could put cell towers on power and light poles throughout communities across the United States, and residents and local governments will be at a loss to stop them.

I care deeply about this issue because I was injured by a cell tower at work along with my co-workers.

Two years ago, I worked at 4705 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village, CA 91607. It is an office building covered with 14 cell tower antennas. Over the course of working there, I developed heart irregularities and pancreatic neoplasms (also called pancreatic pre-cancer). My co-workers (all young, in their 30s and 40s) developed debilitating epilepsy and seizures. We felt like something was wrong with the building, but we couldn't figure out what.

By chance, I was driving by one day, looked up, and realized we were working in the largest cell tower in Valley Village.

5-G transmitters emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation, a substance classified as “probably carcinogenic” by the World Health Organization and a substance linked to cancer in rats by our own government’s prestigious National Toxicology Program. In May 2016, the NTP unveiled preliminary results of a new \$25 million dollar study that found RF radiation from cell towers and phones was associated with heart and brain cancer. Our government's findings back up an extensive body of previous research by independent scientists and labs.

For the FCC to launch a new massive build-out of cell towers only months after our government linked cell tower radiation to cancer is unacceptable.

Not only has the FCC failed to update safety standards for wireless products in the past 30 years, they have actively fought hard against residents and local governments who don't want cell towers near their schools or houses. The 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act section 704 ("the gag rule") prohibits municipal bodies from taking health effects of RF in to consideration when determining the placement of a cell tower. Even worse, with 5G, residents may not even get to contact their municipal government for help.

I am urging you to give residents the tools they need to be safe. The FCC must not be allowed to unveil a new catastrophic wireless plan months after our own government as raised the alarm about wireless safety. Please pause 5G. Repeal the 1996 TCA, and, most importantly, don't let Tom Wheeler, the former head of the wireless industry's lobbying group, the CTIA set safety standards for his former colleagues. The CDC or EPA

(organizations comprised of actual scientists) must be in charge of setting safety policy for cell towers, cell phones, and WiFi networks.

Thank you,

Katherine Gardner